



# West Virginia Republican Party

P.O. Box 2711/Charleston, W.V. 25330/304-768-0493

June 18, 2019

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To the Members of the Wood County Republican Executive Committee:

I am writing to you today to address the innumerable complaints that my office has received about the conduct of the Chairman of the Wood County Republican Executive Committee, Rep. Cornelius.

It has been brought to my attention that Mr. Cornelius has engaged in multiple acts of constant disunity within the Wood County Republican Executive Committee and the Republican State Executive Committee of West Virginia that have disrupted the effective organization and party harmony of those organizations.

Mr. Cornelius has engaged in extensive smear campaign against both myself and the West Virginia Republican Party. Mr. Cornelius misled the public and said I have accepted political contributions in exchange for “betraying the values of our entire team.” Mr. Cornelius also said during a media interview on February 21, 2019, that I have sold the West Virginia Republican Party out “for essentially twenty grand, two bags of silver, not even a solid price for Judas.” Mr. Cornelius has called me a “disappointing liar” and has referred to me on twitter and in public appearances as a “prostitute” multiple times. Mr. Cornelius recently released the contents of a private phone conversation between him and me in which I expressed my opinion on certain matters in a moment of frustration. He spread this on the internet and in public. Mr. Cornelius has engaged in extensive harassment, even posting on Facebook to my husband “only your wife would lie to her entire party and sell herself to a corrupt governor, in front of her husband. Feel sorry for you to have your wife’s true character revealed publicly.”

Mr. Cornelius has not just disrupted the State Republican Party, but he has also failed to lead his own County Republican Party properly. First, Article V Section 5 of the Wood County Republican Executive Committee Bylaws state that “the Chairman shall appoint a parliamentarian,” and yet he has failed to do so despite multiple documented attempts by members of the Executive Committee to do so. Second, Article V Section 5 of the Wood County Republican Executive Committee Bylaws state that “the Chairman shall appoint a chaplain,” and yet he has failed to do so despite multiple documented attempts by members of the Executive Committee to do so. Third, Article IV Section 3 of the Wood County Republican Executive Committee Bylaws state that “the Chairman shall request a resignation from any committee member who is absent from three consecutive scheduled meetings of committee,” and yet he has failed to do so despite multiple documented attempts by members of the Executive Committee to do so.

It is clear that Mr. Cornelius has allowed his personal animus to destroy the advocacy of his leadership and undermine the Wood County Republican Executive Committee and the Republican State Executive Committee of West Virginia. Rather, he has taken these actions to undermine the West Virginia Republican Party and the integrity of our organization. His actions have brought dishonor and harm to the West Virginia Republican Party and have disrupted the operations of our Executive Committee and the operation of the State Party.

The instances outlined in this letter are just a few examples of how Mr. Cornelius has used his office to divide the Republican State Executive Committee of West Virginia and the Wood County Republican Executive Committee. Our Party needs to be unified going into this election year, and we need to end the unnecessary division and focus on doing our jobs and representing the Republican voters of West Virginia with the dignity, character, professionalism, and patriotism that they deserve.

Article XVI Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Republican State Executive Committee of West Virginia state:

In the interest of ***effective organization*** and ***party harmony*** the State Executive Committee and ***its Chairman shall and will exercise jurisdiction, control and authority over the County,*** Senatorial, Judicial Circuit, and Congressional Committees of the Republican Party in West Virginia in all matters having to do with the filling of vacancies when any such Committee is unable to do so, the election of any officer of the committee in the event of a tie vote, ***and of any other matter of the business of any such committee which in the opinion of the State Executive Committee or the State Chairman shall be of sufficient importance to the Republican party to require removal from local consideration and action by the State Executive Committee.***

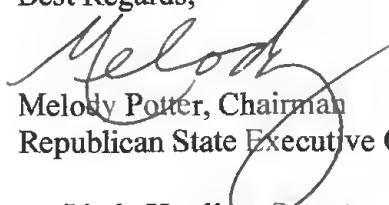
Article XVI Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Republican State Executive Committee of West Virginia state:

If, in the opinion of the Chairman of the State Executive Committee, time is of the essence in regard to the issue or issues in controversy, the Chairman may, in his discretion, resolve the issue or issues in controversy, on a temporary basis by taking such action as he may deem in the best interests of the Republican Party by filling any vacancy, naming any officer, ***or taking what other action may be provident*** and he shall notify in writing the members of any subordinate committee of his action within ten (10) days thereafter, which ***action shall become final and binding*** upon the County, Senatorial, Judicial Circuit, or Congressional Committees of the Republican Party in West Virginia and their members...

Given the facts outlined in this letter and the importance of the matter at hand, pursuant to Article XVI Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Republican State Executive Committee of West Virginia, in my opinion, this action being provident and necessary for the effective organization and party harmony of the Republican State Executive Committee of West Virginia and the Wood County Republican Executive Committee, I hereby remove Mr. Rob Cornelius from his position as Chairman of the Wood County Republican Executive Committee **and** from his position as A5 Precinct Committeeman effective immediately.

Thank you for your continued service to the Republican Party.

Best Regards,

  
Melody Potter, Chairman  
Republican State Executive Committee of West Virginia

cc: Linda Hartling, Secretary of the Republican State Executive Committee of West Virginia  
Andrew Dornbos, General Council of the Republican State Executive Committee of West Virginia  
Mac Warner, West Virginia Secretary of State